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Intelligence Information Cable

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

STATE/INR NMCC/MC (DIA) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA [Redacted] NSC/S SDO NIO CRS PAGE 1 OF 10 PAGES

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[Redacted]

DIST 10 SEPTEMBER 1974

COUNTRY LAOS

DOI ☐ SEPTEMBER 1974

SUBJECT STATEMENT

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

THAT THE LPF PLANS TO EXCHANGE 180 POW'S ON 19 SEPTEMBER

[Redacted]

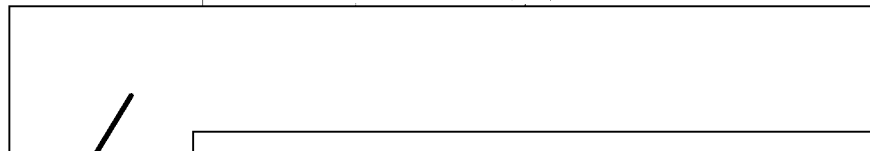
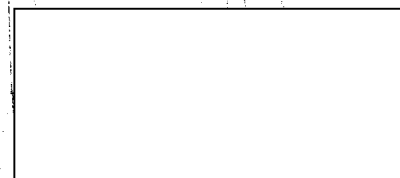
SUMMARY:

[Redacted]

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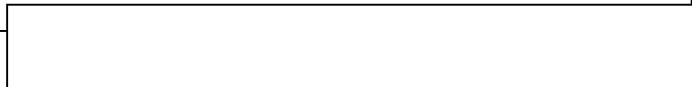
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2001



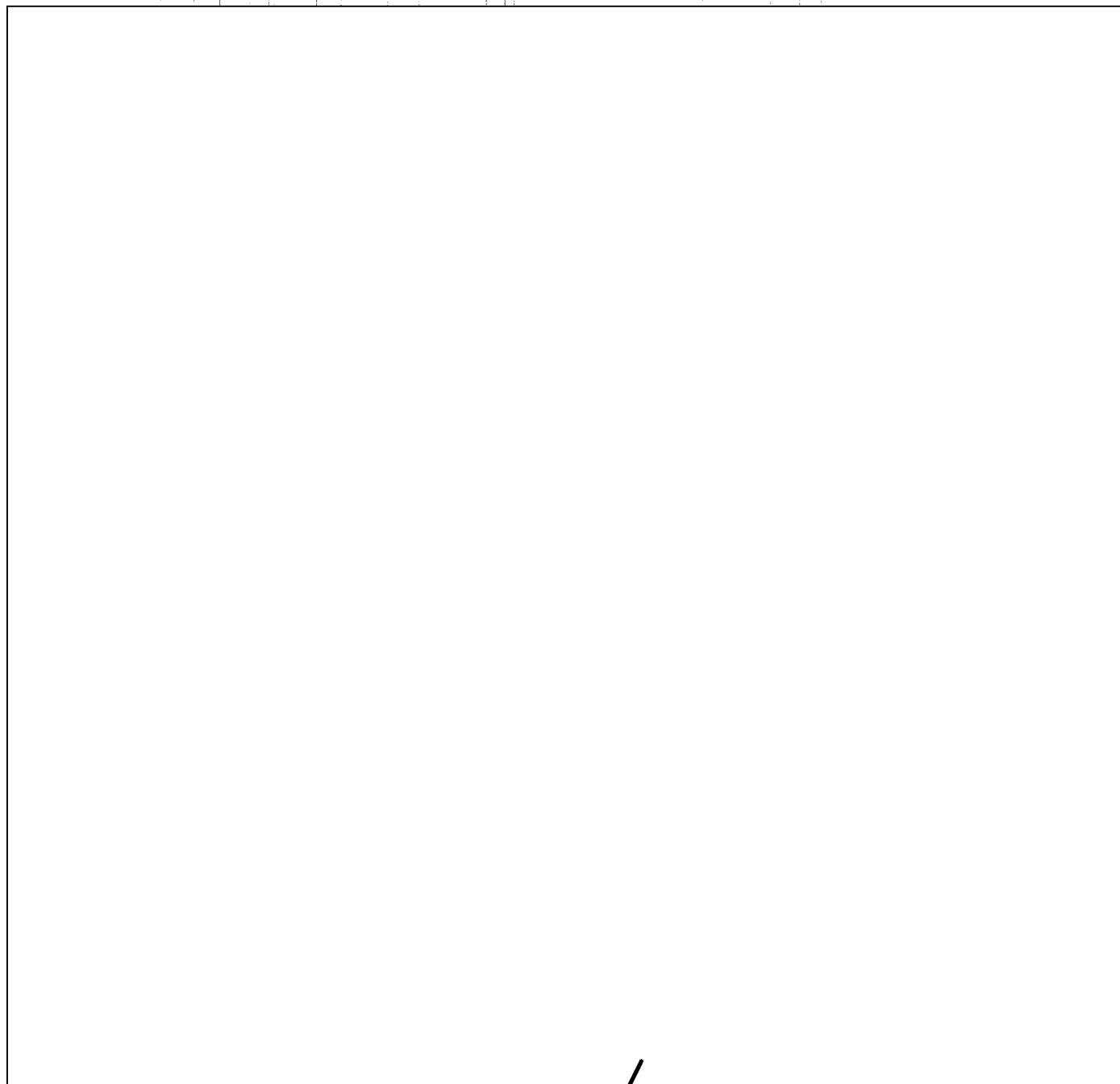
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END SUMMARY.

1.

THERE WAS A MEETING

[REDACTED] TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA) ON PRISONER OF WAR (POW) EXCHANGE. [REDACTED] MET TO DISCUSS PLANNING FOR THE POW EXCHANGE ON 19 SEPTEMBER ON THE PLAIN OF JARS.

2. [REDACTED] ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE ONLY THE ONE POW EXCHANGE ON 19 SEPTEMBER ON THE EDGE OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: AT THE 6 SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE LAO ARMED FORCES (LAR) COMMITTEE ON POW EXCHANGE, CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY, GENERAL OUDON SANANIKONE, [REDACTED] SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE LPR WAS PLANNING ON AN EXCHANGE AT ONE

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POINT ONLY ON 19 SEPTEMBER. HE ASKED FOR THE FAR POSITION ON THIS POINT AND RECOMMENDED THAT THERE BE AGREEMENT ON THE SINGLE POINT ON 19 SEPTEMBER TO EASE TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS. FAR DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE ONE POINT ONLY.)

3. [] DISCUSSED HAVING A TEST FLIGHT TO PHONE SAVANH AIRPORT []

[] AGREED TO A TEST FLIGHT ON 17 SEPTEMBER, TO DEPART VIENTIANE AT 1000 HOURS. HE REQUESTED FULL IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLANE, TO BE EITHER A C-123 OR DC-3, INCLUDING DETAILS SUCH AS TYPE OF AIRCRAFT, MARKINGS AND CONFIRMATION OF TIME OF TAKEOFF. [] SAID THAT ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE (RLAF) REPRESENTATIVES WOULD MAKE THE FLIGHT TO INSPECT THE FIELD AND THE AREA, AND WOULD PERHAPS BE ACCOMPANIED BY CIVIL AVIATION SPECIALISTS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY. [] PROPOSED A SURVEY FLIGHT OVER THE AREA BY HELICOPTER BEFOREHAND TO LOOK OVER THE LANDING STRIP FROM THE AIR PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE TEST FLIGHT. [] SAID THAT THE LPF WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE QUESTION AND RESPOND LATER.

4. [] AND [] AGREED TO EXCHANGE THE LISTS FOR THIS EXCHANGE AT 0900 HOURS ON 17 SEPTEMBER. [] SUGGESTED THAT

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[] EXCHANGE THE LISTS, BUT [] SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION THE JCIA SHOULD EXCHANGE THE LISTS IN A FORMAL MEETING THAT MORNING. [] SUGGESTED DOING SO AT THE LPF SOMBOUN HEADQUARTERS AT PHONXAY. [] AGREED.

5. [] AGREED THAT THE LISTS PREPARED BY EACH SIDE SHOULD HAVE THE SAME FORMAT AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE SEPARATE LISTS FOR EACH NATIONALITY. [] ASKED HOW MANY PRISONERS THE LPF PLANNED TO RELEASE ON 19 SEPTEMBER, SAYING THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE PLANNED TO RELEASE APPROXIMATELY 150 POW'S. [] REPLIED THAT THE LPF PLANNED TO RELEASE APPROXIMATELY 180 PRISONERS. WHEN ASKED HOW MANY OF THE POW'S WOULD BE LAO, THAI AND AMERICAN, [] RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT AS YET HAVE THE FIGURES AND WOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO SPECULATION ON THE POINT. [] COMMENT: []

[] ACTING LPF CHIEF DELEGATE P R A D I T H THIENGTHAM SAID THAT THE LPF DOES PLAN TO RELEASE EMHET K A Y DURING THE FORTHCOMING PRISONER EXCHANGES BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER KAY'S RELEASE WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE INITIAL EXCHANGE NOR DID HE GIVE INDICATION WHETHER OTHER AMERICANS WOULD BE RELEASED, NOTHING HAVING COME UP AT THE 29 AUGUST MEETING

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TO INDICATE THAT THERE ARE MORE AMERICAN POW'S IN LPF HANDS THAN KAY. THERE MAY BE A FEW MORE AMERICAN PRISONERS ALIVE IN LPF HANDS, BUT NO NEW HARD INFORMATION TO THIS EFFECT HAS BECOME AVAILABLE.) [] REQUESTED THAT THE POW'S NOT BE LISTED BY RANK AND ASKED WHY ALL LPF PRISONERS BEING HELD BY FAR WERE NOT BEING RELEASED AT THIS TIME SINCE HE KNEW THAT FAR HELD MORE THAN THE 150. [] REPLIED THAT SOME POW'S HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN SOUTH LAOS AND WERE TO BE RELEASED THERE. LIKEWISE, POW'S CAPTURED IN NORTH LAOS WOULD BE RELEASED THERE. [] ASKED THAT ALL LPF POW'S BE RELEASED ON 19 SEPTEMBER ON THE PLAIN OF JARS AS RELEASING POW'S IN SUCH A MANNER WOULD EASE LPF HANDLING PROBLEMS. [] AGREED

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TO DISCUSS [] REQUEST WITH HIS SUPERIORS.

6. AGREEING THAT ON 19 SEPTEMBER [] SIDES WOULD BE READY FOR TAKEOFF FROM WATTAY AIRPORT AT 0900 HOURS FOR PHONE SAVANH, [] DISCUSSED OBSERVERS TO BE PRESENT AT THE EXCHANGE. THEY AGREED THAT SIX INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION (ICC) DELEGATES COULD AND SHOULD BE THERE, THREE OF WHOM WILL BE FROM THE INDIAN DELEGATION AND THREE FROM THE POLISH. [] SAID THAT THE LPF PLANNED TO HAVE ONLY TWO OF ITS JCIA DELEGATES THERE. [] REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT ALL JCIA DELEGATES FROM EACH SIDE SHOULD ATTEND AND THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE WAS PLANNING TO SEND NINE INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING ITS SEVEN JCIA DELEGATES AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE JCIA SECRETARIAT. [] SAID THAT SUCH A LARGE NUMBER WAS NOT NECESSARY. [] COMMENTED ON RECEIVING AN ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN [] VIENTIANE SIDE CHIEF DELEGATE S O U K A N VILAYSAN AGREED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO SEND ALL THE VIENTIANE SIDE JCIA DELEGATES.

7. []

[] AGREED TO LIMITING LAO PRESS REPRESENTATIVES TO FIVE.

[] SAID THAT THE LPF HAS REFUSED TO PERMIT REPRESENTATIVES

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OF THE XAT LAO AND SIENG SERI NEWSPAPERS TO ATTEND.

REQUESTED THAT REPRESENTATIVES

OF THE FOREIGN PRESS BE ASKED TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO ATTEND FROM THE INFORMATION MINISTRY AND THAT THE INFORMATION MINISTRY INFORM THE JCIA OF THOSE PERMITTED TO ATTEND.

8. [] THE VIENTIANE SIDE PLANS TO USE THREE RLAF C-123'S AND HAVE 15 SECURITY TROOPS ABOARD EACH FLIGHT TO GUARD THE POW'S BEFORE RELEASE. [] ASKED WHY THERE WOULD BE SO MANY, ADDING THAT HE THOUGHT THAT TEN GUARDS SHOULD BE ENOUGH IN EACH PLANE. [] COMMENT: THIS TOPIC HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AT THE 6 SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE FAR COMMITTEE ON POW EXCHANGE AT WHICH THE DECISION WAS MADE TO HAVE 15 GUARDS ABOARD EACH PLANE TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS NO TROUBLE CREATED BY THE NORTH VIET-

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NAMESE POW'S. ALSO DISCUSSED WAS THE QUESTION OF HANDCUFFS ON THE POW'S IF ENOUGH HANDCUFFS COULD BE FOUND. A CHECK WAS TO BE MADE WITH THE LAO NATIONAL POLICE, THE MILITARY POLICE AND PERHAPS WITH USAID.) [] SAID THAT RLAF PLANS TO USE DC-3'S TO TRANSPORT JCIA REPRESENTATIVES, ICC DELEGATES, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LAO AND FOREIGN PRESS AND OTHER VISITORS.

9. []

[] WHEN INFORMED THAT THE LPF HAD ASKED THAT ALL POW'S HELD BY THE VIENTIANE SIDE BE RELEASED ON 19 SEPTEMBER AT THE PLAIN OF JARS EXCHANGE POINT, FAR CONCERN WAS REVIVED THAT ONCE THE VIENTIANE SIDE-HELD POW'S ARE RELEASED, THE LPF WOULD REFUSE TO CONTINUE RELEASING POW'S HELD. [] HE

THOUGHT THAT FAR SHOULD RELEASE ONLY 50 POW'S ON 19 SEPTEMBER. [] COMMENT: SOUKAN IS NOT AS YET AWARE OF [] VIEWS AND IN FACT ASKED THAT FAR BE PRESSED TO RELEASE MORE THAN THE 150 POW'S AS PLANNED.)

10. DETAILS OF THE [] MEETING []

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ON POW EXCHANGE WERE TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE JCIA DELEGATION ON 10 SEPTEMBER, IN PREPARATION FOR THE 12 SEPTEMBER JCIA PLENARY SESSION. NO FURTHER MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON POW EXCHANGE HAS AS YET BEEN SCHEDULED.

11.

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